

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-24 are amended.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowability for claims 3-5, 7, 8, 13-15, 17 and 18. For the reasons discussed below, all of claims 1-24 are allowable.

Claims 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. By this Amendment, claims 21-24 are amended to recite a computer readable medium that stores a program, as suggested in the Office Action. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 11, 12, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Fujii et al. (Fujii), U.S. Patent No. 5,778,158, and claims 10 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Fujii in view of Applicant Admitted Related Art (AARA). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Fujii fails to disclose a method of forming an image with the steps of forming a dither matrix that has a plurality of predetermined patterns, each of the plurality of predetermined patterns having a plurality of tiled elements, with each tiled element having a threshold value, and offsetting each predetermined pattern when forming the dither matrix such that a first predetermined pattern is offset from a second predetermined pattern, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claim 11.

Fujii fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1 and 11 because Fujii is only concerned about image scaling. As such, Fujii only discloses a matrix that is formed with a plurality of predetermined patterns with the tiled threshold matrix 16 in Fig.1. As disclosed in Fig. 1, a threshold matrix 12 is tiled into a tiled threshold matrix 16 so that the matrix 16 overlays a scaled source image 14 (col. 2, lines 3-5). The threshold matrix 12 is tiled, starting with an upper left corner, once to the left and once downward (col. 2, lines 15-24).

Fujii thus fails to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1 and 11 because Fujii only discloses a non-offset conventional tiled threshold matrix 16. Fujii only discloses this matrix because Fujii is merely concerned with image scaling. In other words, Fujii fails to offset a first pattern of a dither matrix from a second pattern.

As shown in Fig. 1 of Fujii, each pattern in the tiled threshold matrix 16 is not offset. Each pattern in the tiled threshold matrix 16 is not offset because the matrix 16 must overlay a square scaled source image 14. Fujii thus fails to provide offset patterns.

AARA fails to overcome the deficiencies of Fujii.

Fujii and AARA thus fail to disclose all of the features recited in claims 1 and 11, as well as the additional features recited in the dependent claims. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

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